

THE COURIER

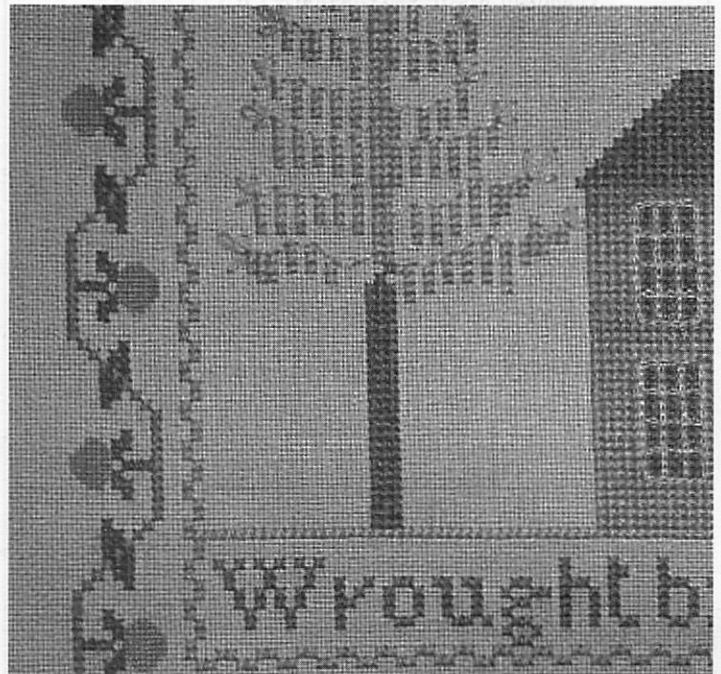
Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
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Historic Lucy Eames Sampler Reproduced

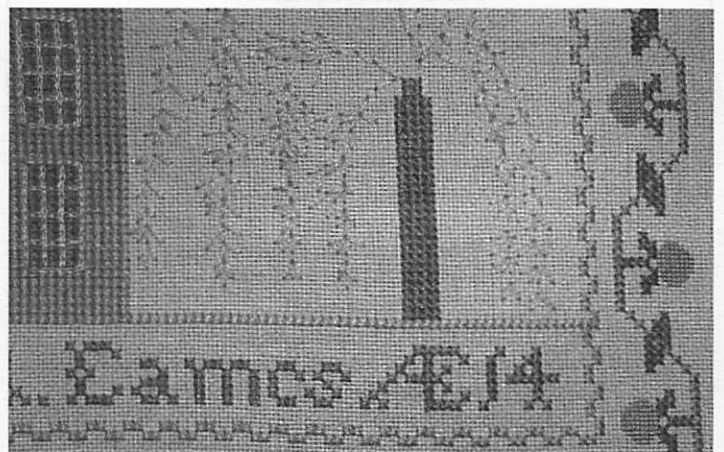
The Lucy Eames Sampler was originally stitched in 1841—more than 150 years ago. Born in 1827, Lucy Russell Eames was fourteen when she created the sampler now in the collection of the Bethel Historical Society upon which this kit is based. The daughter of “Captain” Luther and Abigail Russell Eames of North Bethel, Maine, Lucy was only twenty-one years old at the time of her death in 1849. She and her family lived in the “Locke Neighborhood” of Bethel, and are buried in the nearby Mt. Will Cemetery.

Samplers have traditionally served many purposes in the education of young girls. Working a sampler taught the alphabet, provided a creative outlet, and helped with the mastery of stitching. Chain stitches are used for the window and chimney detail. The texture of the strawberries on the border is achieved by stitching one thread of floss over one thread of fabric to create diminutive cross stitches. Both the strawberry/vine border and pine tree are typical of the locale. The weeping willow was often used as a symbol of mourning to memorialize a departed loved one.



Detail of Pine Tree in Eames Sampler

The original sampler was stitched on cotton gauze fabric with cotton embroidery floss. This reproduction kit measuring 12 1/8 x 13 1/4 inches is stitched using evenweave tea dyed Monaco fabric and cotton floss. The colors are matched to the original sampler. It is available for \$25.95 plus applicable tax and shipping.



Window and Willow Detail of Eames Sampler



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 31 December 2000, over \$544,000 had been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What's the best kept secret in Bethel? Why it is our own unique and treasure-laden museum shop located in the front room of the Robinson House. There one can find an incredible variety of gifts, books, pamphlets, journals, hobby kits, and toys--the kind you will not find in vast malls or in the "big box" stores. Gifts that last, are entertaining, filled with history, and are the kind one will want to pass on to children and grandchildren. Yes, many of the books, journals, toys, and pamphlets are educational, but they also reflect our precious heritage--something we all need to know, understand and appreciate. Knowing our "roots" helps all of us value what we have and lets us plan for the future.

Life member and trustee Priscella Walker and her group of dedicated volunteers oversee the shop and assist our customers. Yes, they take credit cards in the shop and you can survey our entire inventory on our web-page (see our web-site address on page 12). The shop is a valuable resource for the Society and an important revenue source that helps us continue to be who we are.

Society members are entitled to a 10% discount on sales totaling \$10 or more and there are often sale items offered for even greater savings. So the next time a birthday, anniversary, or holiday gift is needed, visit our museum shop and select something special.

Alvin Barth

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Francis and Emily Coolidge, Boxboro, MA
Albert and Judy Costa, Waban, MA
Frank A. Lowell, Jr., Bethel
Robert J. Lowell, Bethel

EDITOR'S CORNER

The feature article of this issue was inspired by something from our collection, the Lucy Eames sampler. We expect to do more highlighting of our collection with items in the museum shop that have some relationship to artifacts we have collected through the years. Anyone interested in this item or other others should download our web-site at the address found on page 12 to find the complete list of our museum shop offerings. S R H

THE FAMILIES OF THE ROBINSON HOUSE, 1821-1923

O'Neil Watson Robinson was born in Chatham, NH in 1797. He came to Bethel in the early 1820s, and purchased large tracts of land. In 1821, he built the house that now bears his name following its purchase by the Society in 1998. Robinson was active in business here until 1835 and Postmaster after Dr. Mason for two years before he moved to Portland and later to Waterford. He served as a State Senator and from 1842-50 as Sheriff of Oxford County. He also owned impressive acres of land in Gorham, Berlin, and Dummer, NH. In 1821, he married Betsey Hilton Straw of Newfield. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom were born in Bethel.

In 1835, Robinson sold his home to Robert Chapman, a clerk in his store, who would rise to become the wealthiest resident of the town. Chapman was the grandson of Rev. Eliphaz Chapman, who was responsible for naming the town in 1796. Robert Chapman was the third postmaster of Bethel, serving from 1835 to 1846. So for the first twenty nine years of the town's postal history, the Society's two adjacent buildings were the places to obtain mail in early 19th century Bethel.

The historian, Dr. William B. Lapham, recorded that Chapman dreamed of owning the store established by O'Neil Robinson near the site of the present Bethel Library. Dr. Lapham undoubtedly found Chapman's prohibitionist tendencies much to his liking as he wrote of him: "Mr. Chapman was one of the most industrious men. When I was attending school in Bethel, I was in the habit of occasionally rising early and going to Paradise Hill to have a view of the gorgeous sunrise seen from that point, and I never passed Mr. Chapman's place in the early morning twilight, without seeing him about his chores, milking his cows, feeding his horses, or at work in his garden, and getting ready for his day's employment in the store. He was correct in his habits, strictly temperate, a liberal supporter of, and constant attendant at the Congregational Church." That was what made a good man in the eminent Dr. Lapham's opinion.

Robert Chapman was born in Gilead in 1807. He spent his youth on his father's farm in that town and attended Gilead schools. According to Dr. Lapham, he possessed a natural aptitude for business and when a minor found employment with O'Neil Robinson. He announced in Dr. Lapham's presence that he intended to own the store and by 1835, when he was in his late twenties, he did. He carried on the store for nearly half a century, working in partnership with his brother Eldridge before he went to Portland and later with Enoch Woodbury.

He also served in the State Senate, moving from the Democratic party to the Republican by 1855. He married in 1833 Frances Carter, the daughter of Dr. Timothy Carter, the town's first settled physician. They had six children.

Chapman's daughter, Sarah Walker Chapman, who married Enoch Foster, Jr., prominent lawyer and later a Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, was the next owner of the house after her father's death in 1880. Her husband Enoch was born in Newry in 1839. He married first Adeline Owen Lowe of Waterville in 1864. Following her death, he married in 1873 Sarah Chapman. By each wife, he had one son. Foster was educated at Gould Academy and the Maine State Seminary at Lewiston before entering Bowdoin College in 1860. He served in the Civil War as a Second Lieutenant in the 13th Maine. Here he saw action in the Gulf Department under the colorful General Ben Butler, who was so hated by Southerners that one of the best-selling chamber pots in the South were those with the General's image on the bottom.

After the war, Foster returned to Bowdoin. Following graduation, he worked in the law office of his cousin Reuben Foster of Waterville. Later he graduated from the Albany (New York) Law School, whereupon he returned to Bethel and built up a very lucrative law practice.

Following his appointment as a Supreme Court Justice, Foster and his wife moved to Portland. In 1903, the Fosters sold their Bethel home to William Oliver and Agnes Hastings Straw. Agnes was the only daughter of John and Abigail Hastings and a niece of Betsey Hilton Straw, the wife of the first owner of the Robinson House. At the time of the purchase in 1903, the late Robert Hastings recalled, it was the most expensive house in Bethel; the Straws paid \$5000 for it.

Agnes obtained her education from local schools and Gould Academy. She later taught music and art in the Colebrook, NH schools.

In 1862, she married her first cousin, William O. Straw. This union was not uncommon in the 19th century or before. In their case, however, they pledged not to have children.

Will Straw was born in Guildford, Maine, attended local schools and graduated from Foxcroft Academy. After receiving his education, he was engaged in farming and stock growing. Later, Will accepted a job as chainman with his brother-in-law and first cousin, Daniel Hastings, in 1881. Daniel was a civil engineer and the chief surveyor for the Northern Pacific Railroad line between Odanah, WI and Duluth, MN. In 1883-84, Daniel and Will were assigned to survey a railway line across the Montana Territory from Billings to Fort Benton. It was during that time that they decided to obtain land in the Judith Basin in Montana. Each had a ranch of about 4000 acres. The Straws raised hay and grains as well as horses and cattle. They also raised sheep prior to 1898. Agnes Straw had her own band of Dorset sheep which she took care of. Barbara Hastings Honkala records that the official history records that the Straws gave the land, so that is why it was called "Straw" to perpetuate the name of a couple who had no children. The late Edward "Ned" Hastings and his sister Euphemia had another version. In their telling of the story, it was flip of a coin that determined the name as Will Straw prevailed over Dan Hastings so the place became known as Straw not Hastings, MT. In any case, it does not exist today.

At the turn of the century, the Straws decided to return East and purchased this house. They were very civic minded and generous with their means, contributing to the Bethel Library, the Congregational Church, and Gould Academy. Will Straw died in 1909. His widow continued on as a lady of broad interests and talents. She was a skilled artist, musician, and seamstress, a woman of distinct culture and refinement. She owned a summer cottage at Islesboro and wintered in Felsmere, FL. Following her death in 1923, her house was sold by her heir and grand nephew, William Straw Hastings (whose parents had changed his name at the request of Mrs. Straw so as to become with his brother Robert her heirs) to William Bingham II and his business partner William J. Upson for use by the Bethel Inn, which owned the property until 1998.

Agnes Straw was cleaning house one year after she and her husband returned to Bethel from Montana. She found a bowl of meal in the chamber and absent mindedly decided to feed it to the horse, which died a few hours later. To her horror, the meal turned out to be rat poison and she had killed a \$200 horse.

The late Margaret Herrick Oakes recalled the following: "I was down in the cellar [of the Robinson House during the Straw

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(Continued from page 4)

ownership] sucking new cider out of a bung hole in a barrel of cider with a straw and something came up about election time, and I hauled off and let him [Will Straw] have what my father had said about Democrats. And Mr. Straw was practically rolling in the aisles and I couldn't understand why he was laughing so hard, so I came home and I said, 'Papa, I told Mr. Straw what you said about Democrats,' and my father collapsed, and he laughed until he cried, and I said what's the matter and he said, 'He's one of the strongest Democrats.' "

In summary, this house has had four owners prior to the Bethel Inn, all of whom made their contribution to the history of this residence and the town. Further changes have occurred under the Bethel Inn ownership, and now we know even more extensive changes are in store for the building if the Society is to have the state of the art museum facility that it now envisions for the future. SRH

BOOK NOTE

This title is available from the Society's Museum Shop, and may be ordered by following the instructions on the back of this publication.

Northern Comfort: New England's Early Quilts, 1780-1850. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1998. This book is a celebration of the artistry of early New England quilters. Drawing upon the collection of Old Sturbridge Village, *Northern Comfort* examines the textures, colors, and designs of dozens of remarkable pieces and the New England women who made them. It depicts striking examples of whole cloth, stenciled, appliqued, elegant white work, and multi-colored patchwork quilts. Here is the definitive account of how early New England women "gathered up the fragments" of their time and textiles to create unique and intriguing quilts and accessories. Featuring full-color photographs of delicate and rarely seen bed quilts and quilted garments, the book relates the fascinating story of New England's quilting heritage. 118 pp., paper. \$19.95

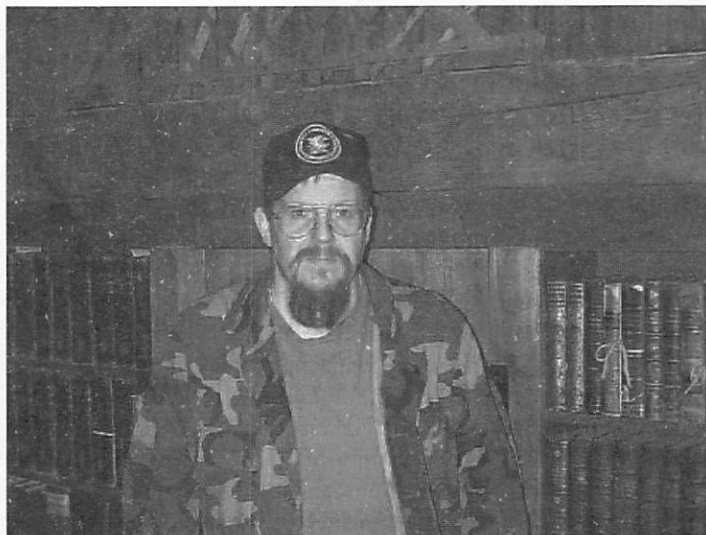
THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

*From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER,
24 December 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman
of Norway, Maine*

Of Bethel men there, enlisted in Co. G. of Col. Beal's 10th Regt. Maine Vols. Corp. Edward Goddard, and Privates Nathan S. Estes, Charles L. Lapham and Josiah A. Brown, Goddard was taken prisoner at Winchester, VA, during Banks' Retreat, and Estes was wounded at Cedar Mountain.

The Regiment was mustered into the service in the autumn of 1861 and joined Col. Butler's Expedition, which had been organized to capture New Orleans. After that city had been occupied by the Union troops, the Regiment was stationed in forts Jackson and St. Philips on the Mississippi, but when General Banks took command of the department, it was ordered into active service in the field and took an honorable part in the Red River and other campaigns, and in Louisiana, in Sheridan's campaign in the Shenandoah Valley.

O'Neil W. Robinson, Jr. was practicing law in Bethel when war broke out. He read law with Elbridge Gerry at Waterford, ME, and was admitted to the bar in 1847. He was mustered into the service in the latter part of 1861 as Capt. of the 4th Maine Battery. In his command were the following enlisted men from Bethel: Sergt.



Allan Marcotte

MEMBER PROFILE

Allan Marcotte

Allan Marcotte was born in 1960 in Manchester, NH, where he grew up. He attended local schools, graduated from West High School in Manchester and attended the University of New Hampshire. His early summers were spent in Errol, NH, where his parents had a camp. His lifelong love of the North Country began at this time while he fished the Androscoggin, picked blueberries and went sightseeing around the region.

Travel was always a preoccupation with him and his family, who ranged all over New England visiting numerous forts, museums, and historic sites. From this beginning he became passionate about history, especially the Colonial American period. For years, he was active in Revolutionary War re-enactments, portraying a private in a company of Loyalist rangers. Eight years ago he was disabled with a heart problem.

Moving to Bethel in the summer of 2000, not by design, but as he said, "by simple good fortune," he has been a volunteer in the museum and in the Society's special events. He is also an active member of the West Parish Congregational Church. His hobbies include reading history and politics, studying cook books, and dabbling on the computer. Fishing, hunting, and exploring the wilds of the North Country continue to be of interest to him, but like many things now, have to be enjoyed within the limits of his health.

Meville C. Kimball and Corp. J. M. Freeman, Art. F. C. Bartlett, Privates, Ira W. Bean, Abiel Chandler, Jr., Henry Gates, Osym Smith, Oliver Y. Nutting, and Austin F. Twitchell.

In 1863, Capt. Robinson became chief of artillery of the 3rd Corps with the rank of Major, a place he filled with great credit to himself as long as he remained in service. Having shattered his health, he died at Bethel shortly after coming out of the army in 1864. [Editor's Note: Undoubtedly, he died at his father's house in Waterford, but is buried with his parents in Woodland Cemetery, Bethel. The ceremonial saber made by Tiffany of New York that was presented to him when he left the service is in the Society's collection.]

At the call of Pres. Lincoln for troops to put down the Rebellion, Major Albert B. Twitchell enlisted in the 5th Maine as a private in which capacity he served until he was appointed Q.M. Sergt. of the Regiment.

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(Bethel Soldiers of '61, continued from page 5)

Lieut. Twitchell was promoted to Capt. and given the command of the battery. In it were the following Bethel men: Corps. S. P. Farwell, C. H. W. Farwell, and E. P. Stevens, and Privates J. C. Bartlett, J. P. Holt, and James Locke. Capt. Twitchell was wounded at Chancellorsville while J. P. Holt was killed. [Editor's Note: James P. Holt's diary is in the Society's collection.]

In the autumn of 1863, having recovered from his wounds, he proceeded to organize the 7th Maine and commissioned as its Capt., Dr. Wm. B. Lapham, then of Woodstock, now of Augusta, was 1st Lieut., then afterward promoted to Captain.

The record of Maine in the war is not excelled by that of the soldiers of any other state. Not one organization lost its colors on the fields of battle. Examine the official records of its cavalry—the best in the service, its infantry second to none, its artillery among the very best of excellent organizations, and it will be found that Maine if not ahead of all, at least, had no superior. Look at the record and it will be seen that as a Massachusetts governor's statement. Of the 1st Maine Cavalry extended to all Maine soldiers is not extravagant, "I will match that body of men," said he as that Regiment of Cavalry moved through Boston from the seat of war, "against the same number of troops in all the world." In a similar spirit after learning what I have, I asked, "Where is there inhabitants who can show a record during the great conflict of arms superior to that of our own Bethel?"

Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1937—October 1, Our 14th anniversary. Started for Umbagog Lake at 3:30 p.m. Arrived at Camp Camullion at 5:45. October 2, Cold & windy. Started for Rapid River but lake was so rough we turned back. Hiked & rested. Great life! October 3, Clear & cool. Up at 3:45 a.m. Down lake in thick fog. Went by car to Colebrook, Island Pond, Newport, Burlington, Montpelier, St. Johnsbury, Lancaster, Gorham, Bethel & home. 344 miles. October 4, 25 degrees. Clear & cold. Dug all day on Eph piece, 119 bbl. Rot is bad! October 5, 35 degrees. Clear & warm. Nearly finished Eph. flat, 105 bbl. October 6, Rain in a.m. Clearing. Bob in Portland. Dug 106 bbl. in p.m. in Home field. October 7, Clear & windy. Finished Home field, went to Eph. piece. Grassy! Nice spuds. 169 bbl. October 8, Cold & windy. Finished Eph. piece. Dug 2 rows on Crow piece, 14 bbl. 132 bbl. in all. October 9, Clear & cool. Dug 2 acres on Crow Piece. 244 bbl. October 10, Cloudy, showers. Dad & our family went to Upton, Errol, Azicoos Dam, across Oquossuc by the new road & home via Rangeley, Weld, etc. 165 miles (about). Nice trip! October 11, Cloudy. Up at 4:25 a.m. Ate at 5:45. Dug on Jorgen Olson's. About 275 bu. Then dug John Howe's. 30 bu. ½ hr. October 12, 20 degrees. Cold, cloudy. Graded spuds in a.m. Dug in p.m. 105 bbl. Finished digging. 1891 bbl. 5200 bu. About 900 bu. less than 1936. October 13, Cold. Windy. Sawed wood for schoolhouse. Hauled with horses. Bob in Portland. October 14, Cold & windy. Sawed wood for Mrs. Foster. 4 cords @ \$9. F. & Game supper at W. Paris. Froze radiator on way home. October 15, Colder & windy. Sawed wood & graded potatoes. Uncle John went back to Foster's [farm house near Johnny's Bridge in Greenwood now owned by former Society president Cathy Newell and her husband, Charlie]. October 16, Clear & cold. Worked on hen house floor. Bob in Portland. Dis-connected water to chick range. October 17, Clear & cool. Got crab-apples. Joined Farm Bureau. Went to Greenwood. October 18, Cold morning. Warmed & cloudy.

Finished hen house.. Housed pullets. October 19, Raining. Graded spuds, 115 bu. Spuds are \$1 per bbl. in Aroostook. \$1 - \$1.10 per cwt. in Portland. October 20, Rain all day. South gale but warm. Bob ran into C.M. Power guy wire down across road at Goss Ridge. \$25 or more damage to the truck. October 21, Clear & warm. Put up spuds. Put clapboards on Coburn house. October 22, Cloudy. Installed heater in truck. Framed Farwell's ice house plates & rafters. October 23, Rain!! Worked around home. Hunted awhile. No luck! October 24, Clearing. Warm. Sick all a.m. Stayed home. October 25, Cloudy, warm. Spreading manure on Ned piece. 32 spreader loads. October 26, Warm. Finished manure and started planting. "400" supper in eve. October 27, Cloudy, warm. Plowing. October 28, Raining. Put up spuds. October 29, Rainy. Put up spuds. Plowed in p.m. October 30, Cold & squally. Plowed for Noyes. High wind. October 31, Cold & windy. Left at 8:30 for Camp Camullion. Grover & Harry Brooks, John Howe & myself. November 1, Windy. Hunted. No luck. Logging crew all around our camp. November 2, Windy. Hunted Glaspie Cove country. No luck. November 3, Snow squalls. "B" Brook Cove & Point. No luck. November 4, West wind. "B" Brook Cove in a.m. No deer. Tyler swamp in p.m. Shot a buck "skipper." Weight about 40 or 50 lbs. November 5, Clear & still. Drove point & hunted Tyler Swamp. No luck. November 6, Cloudy. Came home in a.m. Hauled wood in p.m. November 7, Cold & cloudy. Greenwood. Lazy day. Babs has chicken pox. November 8, Cloudy. Put up spuds & spread lime. Got a haircut in late p.m. November 9, Clear & warm. Plowed & harrowed for Noyes. November 10, Cold, windy. Surveyed for Farwells in Lots 8 & 9 in Range 6. Their swamp lot. November 11, Cold, windy. Sawed pulp in a.m. Finished surveying job in p.m. Fish & Game meeting in Bryant Pond. November 12, Warm. Put up spuds & sawed wood. Loaded truck for Portland. November 13, Cold, cloudy. Hauled stove wood. Went to Norway. November 14, Rain. Stayed home. Opened silo. November 15, Cloudy, warm. Wired the Perry place for Newt [Sherman Newton]. 7 ½ hrs. @ \$.45 = \$3.37. November 16, Cloudy, warm. Put up spuds. Wired 1 ½ hrs. Fixed Cross Road. November 17, Cloudy, warm. Sawed pulp a.m. Wired for Leslie [Noyes] 1 ½ hrs. Edmund Smith wants me to wire his buildings. Can't leave here now. November 18, Cloudy, warm. Yarded & sawed pulp. Coburn place. In eve. Rodney [Howe] & I went to H.I. Bean's & traded guns. I traded my loading outfit for a standard Automatic Pistol. November 19, Clear, warm. Sawed pulp. Put up spuds. Tried my pistol. Like it fine. November 20, Snowing. 1 ½ ". Planted load of fish. 1500 Otter Brook, 1500 Bog Brook, 2000 Pleasant R. Fixed garage doors. November 21, Cold, squally. Stayed home. November 22, Clear, cold. Hunted in morning. Sawed pulp. November 23, Windy. Hauled wood to sheds. November 24, Cloudy & warm. Wired for Newt. 6 hours. Nearly finished. November 25, Clear & warm. Fixed Coburn House doors, etc. November 26, Cloudy. Sawed wood for school house & cellars. November 27, Cloudy. Went to Bethel with a load for Grover. November 28, Rain. Went to Fryeburg to see Edward [Hastings]. Roads are bad. November 29, Clear, warm. Hunted & sawed pulp. November 30, Clear, cool. Finished wiring for Newt ¾ hrs. Reported at So. Paris & was drawn as No. 4 Juror on Dwyer murder case. Stayed at Beals Tavern. December 1, Clear & cold. Eleven men drawn yesterday. One today. Wakely, Tripp, Martin, Hastings, Jordan, Libby, Allen, O'Donnell, Bean, Carrier, Purkis & Ames. 12 men from 100. December 2, Clear, cold. Dwyer changed his plea to Guilty & was sentenced to Thomaston for life. We were discharged & came home. Glad of it. December 3, 6 degrees. Clear & warm. Yarded green pulp on Coburn place. Ground is still bare. December

(continued on page 7)



The jury that was convened to hear the Dwyer murder case in December 1937 (including William S. Hastings, fifth from left in the back) stands on the steps of the County Court House in South Paris. This case attracted national attention. Courtesy of Barbara Hastings Honkala.

(Diary of William Hastings, continued from page 6)

4, 15 degrees. Clear & warm. Sawed wood. In p.m. put tar paper on Coburn dormer. Banked my house. Pictures in eve. December 5, Clear & warm. Finished surveying for Haines in L5R4. 5 hrs. Greenwood in p.m. Called on Verner [Smith] in eve. December 6, Rain-Hard! Improved grader & put up spuds. Made head-board for truck. Icy & slippery. December 7, Clear & cool. Cut pulp in a.m. In p.m. went to Bethel. Paid Grange tax. Brought Defroster fan from Grover \$3.95. Aluminum Dripolator [coffee maker] for Ruth. December 8, Cloudy. Light snow last night. Ruth and I went to Portland & did xmas shopping. Home via Lauris [brother-in-law in Yarmouth]. Fish & Game meeting at Bryant Pond. December 9, See Dec. 8. Got set ahead a day. December 10, 2 degrees. Clear & cold. Got pulp. Broke a saw plate. We bought Mel Bean place. Price \$2500. Deed not made yet. December 11, 0 degree. Clear, cold. Cut pulp. No snow. December 12, 0 degree. Clear, cold. Cruised Mel Bean Place. Lot of pulp on it. Greenwood in p.m. December 13, Clear, cold, & windy. Cutting pulp. Finished yarding on Coburn Place. December 14, Cool. Regular gale. Swamped roads & cut pulp 9R9 Bean swamp. December 15, 0 degree. Clear & cold. Surveyed in Mason between Fannie Mills & Jack McKenzie/2 hrs. In p.m. sawed pulp. Broke my back again. December 16, Snow. 3 in. Went to Norway to see Dr. Swett. December 17, Cloudy. Filed saws. Washed car. Cut up hog. December 18, 32 degrees. Raining hard.

Checked line between Bean swamp & Trasks. Butchered 2 hogs for Farwell. Cleaned hen house. Rolled a yard of green pulpwood. December 19, Clear & cool. Whole family went after Xmas tree. Cruised big swamp 10R6 where David is cutting birch. December 20, Clear, cool. Cut pulp in Bean swamp. December 21, Clear, cool. Cut pulp on Coburn Place. Snow is 4 or 5 in. deep. Good cutting. Leslie [Noyes] is working for us. December 22, Cloudy. Cut pulp on Coburn Place. Bob is hauling down to road. Reload it on truck & haul to river bank at Uncle Ned Bean place. December 23, Clear, cool. Cutting pulp. Hauled to river. I threw another vertebra out of place. Bethel in p.m. Haircut. December 24, Cool, cloudy. Put up 40 bu. spuds. Went to Norway. 10 bu. Nationwide \$.50 per bu. 20 bu. F. National. Truck in garage. Home at 8:20. Lauri, Emmie, & David [Tamminen] here. December 25, Clearing after 3 in. snow. Xmas day. Ruth's folks came up. Had our tree. Lot of presents. I have a nice head cold also. Sick all night. December 26, Cloudy. Lazy day at home. Cold better. December 27, Cold. 60 bu. potatoes to Norway. December 28, Cold, snowy. Cutting pulp. December 29, Snowing. Started building a camp, in sections, in cellar. December 30, Cold. Snowing. Worked on camp. Put up 100 bu. spuds. Johnson 85 cents cwt. Got rear quarter beef from Noyes. 12 cents, 113 lbs. December 31, Cold & clear. Bob in Portland. We cut pulp. Snow is nearly 1 ft. in places.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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A record 375 individuals and businesses made gifts of \$15,328 in 2000 to the Society's Annual Fund campaign to support ongoing operations. Much appreciation is expressed to all of the following for their generosity: Roger C. Adams, West Simsbury, CT, in memory of Katherine G. Adams; Guy L. Akers, Southborough, MA, in memory of Regina Akers; John R. Amann, Bethel, in memory of William F. Amann; William and Deborah Andrews, Newry; Avery Angevine, Bethel, in honor of Mary Angevine; Roland Annis, Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Roberta Arbree, Randolph, NH; Mary Ann Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; James E. and Linda B. Auman, Warren, NJ; Carolyn S. Austin, Bennington, VT, in memory of J. Maynard Austin; Romeo and Jo Baker, Newry; Al and Lee Barth, Bethel; Dorothy A. Bartlett, Bethel, in memory of Urban and Lillian Bartlett; Elizabeth E. Bartlett, Fresno, CA, in memory of Albert B. Bartlett; Urban and Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond, in memory of Dr. Bryant Bean; Abbie Beane, Bethel; Penelope Beckman, Litchfield, CT, in memory of Marjorie MacArthur Noll; Bessie Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett and Sandra Mason; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett and Sandra Mason; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Frances M. Bernier, Bethel, in memory of Fergus and Amber; Francis R. and Mary Lou Berry, Bethel, in memory of Eva A. Chapman and Helen E. Berry; The Bethel Citizen, Bethel; Bethel Rotary Club, Bethel; Linona Blake, West Paris, in memory of Clayton L. Blake; Elias B. and Beatrice Block, East Meadow, NY; Laurel Blossom, New York, NY, in memory of William Bingham II; Penny Bohac and Joe Cardello, Bethel; Kenneth A. and Gwyneth G. Bohr, Bethel, in memory of Barbara D. Brown; Garret and Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Roberta Bordana, Grandby, CT, in memory of Aaron Draper Shattuck; A.W. and Florine B. Bowden, Bethel, in memory of Seymour Butters; Coleen F. Boyd, West Bethel, in memory of Duke Boyd; Harriet Bridges, Harvard, MA; Ida Lee Bryant, Bangor, in memory of George Bryant; Albert and Norma Buck, Oxford, in memory of Grace Buck; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Lois F. Burgess, Bethel; Edward V. and Cynthia A. Bush, Buzzards Bay, MA; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Muriel Brinck Thompson; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; Frieda and Prentiss Carnell, W. Sand Lake, NY; Sara S. Carson, Oxford, in memory of Barbara D. Brown; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip Sheridan Chapman, Jr.; Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel; Dr. Donald M. Christie, Jr., Gray; Norman and Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Lauralee H. Clayton, Camden, in memory of Sarah Messer; Elinor W. Clifford, Farmington, in memory of Gordon K. Clifford; Adaline S. Clough, Bethel; William P. III and Marta M. Clough, Bethel; Nancie S. Coan, Washington, DC; Howard W. and Virginia C. Cole, Bethel; Rupert D. and Eva N. Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia and Dellison Conroy; Paula A. Conway, Holyoke, MA, in memory of Caroline Kododziej; Stanley F. Coolidge, Oxford, in memory of Jim and Joan Coolidge; Barbara and Roland Crocker, Riverside, RI, in memory of Wallace and Lilas Coolidge; Clayton H. and Lola B. Crockett, Bethel; Rita H. Davis, Bethel; Robert and Pauline Davis, Bethel, in memory of Barbara D. Brown; Gretchen M. Dock, Boston, in memory of Phyllis D. Dock; Mary E. Dooen, Bethel, in memory of Ruth Wilkinson; Patricia C. Dooen, Bethel; Barbara D. Douglass, Bethel; Richard A. Douglass, Inc., Bethel; Josiah H. Jr. and Joanna P. Drummond, Bethel; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Hugh and Mariann Durgin, Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Diane Dyer, Westbrook, in memory of Roland Turgeon and Bruce Dyer; Kathryn M. Eames, Cape

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(2000 Annual Fund Donors, continued from page 8)

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"AWAY FROM HOME"

From *The Bethel News*, 23 December 1903

by Marian True Gehring

Bethel is a wonderful little village in that it insists upon having personal interests at the ends of the earth. Let there be a Galveston disaster, and our quick sympathies are enlisted because our own old neighbors were among the sufferers. Is there a Cuban war? We have a soldier there. Are teachers called for in the Philippines? One responds who has taught in Bethel. Is a great director wanted to organize and lead the finest musical club in New York, and to carry on the largest general musical project in New England? He is found to come from Bethel.

In a far-off eastern nation, he who wields the real power in the government and stands close behind the throne, has adopted Bethel as his heart's home, to which he will return in the coming years.

Many of those who, especially in recent years, have walked our ways, loved our foot-hills and mountain ranges, are people whose lives are upon the broadest planes and to know something about them as they leave our lovely land, often returning to wander over remembered by-ways of beauty, is perhaps given us a new valuation of our environment, and to fill our lives with wider interests.

Last month an event occurred in Cambridge, MA, that will mark an epoch in New England cultivation, namely: the opening of the Germanic Museum. We now have reproductions of Germany's most beautiful sculptural monuments, statues, shrines, arches and doorways – works of art one crosses the ocean to see – that can here be studied at leisure, and even more favorably than before many of the originals.

To see and hear President Eliot, Carl Schurz, Professor Von Jageman, the ambassador, Baron v. Bussche-Haddenhauser, with his lovely Argentine bride, who represented the Kaiser and the German embassy at Washington, that day, was to give one the

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(Away from Home, continued from page 10)

greatest uplift of enthusiasm. But the man who created the situation, roused the interest, and by personal interviews influenced the bestowal of this royal gift to our art poor country, whose exquisite prologue to the evening of German dramatic art was a masterpiece and who was applauded as none other, when he arose to make his address was, Prof. Kuno Francke, curator of German Literature at Harvard, and he it was who climbed the hill-sides of Bethel last summer, and so loved this life as to let his feelings flow into beautiful poetic expression, and who honors Bethel by this love.

In Cambridge, with Miss Wiliston, and in Cleveland at The Hollenden, receptions were held for those had been in Bethel, and it was a cordial little multitude that greeted and then rehearsed Bethel experiences. At the Cleveland reception, Miss Elsie Weitz and Miss Berta Narten, lovingly remembered among us, assisted in receiving the guests.

Those who heard, three winters ago in Garland Chapel, the charming story of social life in Japan, given by Mr. and Mrs. Jotham Potter, will be interested to know that their young sister, the Baroness Von Lutzwitz and little daughter are in this country. Baron Von Lutzwitz was on Lord Roberts' staff in Africa, and they are part of the one hundred who form the private family of the Czar at St. Petersburg. A dinner given to the Bethelites that they might meet this exquisite combination of American beauty, tact and Christian womanhood, represented by Baroness Von Lutzwitz, as made amusing by her interest in this little New England hamlet, in contrast to a life spent amid palaces. And as for Mr. and Mrs. Potter, but for an inevitable change in the plans their only son would have fitted for Princeton College at Gould's Academy—so great is their appreciation of what Bethel can give a boy.

At Mrs. Rattie's home, Sunnyside, rightly named now that its charming mistress is restored to health, Madam Cary awaited us with inquiries about Bethel. This most interesting traveler who has crossed the Atlantic sixteen times and journeyed around the world, found interests in many subjects and objects when with us such are only seen by those who have eyes opened through cultivation. She made the trees of Bethel her special study and delight.

Mr. Wentworth Marshall has bought a magnificent place of two hundred and ten acres near Cleveland, and will erect a thirty thousand dollar home thereon. In deciding upon its site, he chose the one that took in a beautiful horizon of hills "because they make me think of Bethel."

Miles away from the village, these last two summers, two pedestrians have been met by people driving into town, and admiring and wondering eyes have followed Mrs. and Miss Parson's elastic figures as they found daily delight in knowing every by way as well as highway for miles around our village. At a dinner given in their beautiful city home, one wish was dominant, "Ah, to see Bethel in winter!"

Mr. Liberty E. Holden, whom Bethel has the happiest reasons for remembering, entertained the travelers at his magnificent place at Glenville, a suburb of Cleveland. The stately grey stone mansion rises from its natural surroundings as though it merely expressed its owner's appreciation of the wonderful beauty of the situation upon the shore of Lake Erie. Inside the house the corners of the earth have contributed decoration, while the art-treasures are such as one only expects to see in public museums. A beautiful library and art museum stands within the grounds, and when one sees that the mother and daughter of the family are all gifted with special talents, he adds a mental affirmation, saying "L. E. Holden was born under a lucky star." Mr. Holden's interest in Bethel has already been

given practical expression, and Gould's Academy, its present and future, was a topic in earnest conversation.

Amid the pageantry of the Waldorf Astoria, Mr. Carrington of amateur photography fame came for a Bethel greeting. Mr. Carrington's views of Bethel are considered little art treasures, as no one else has seen with his eyes what Bethel has to offer to the student.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Rogers Chapman at the famous Horse Show – the greatest fashion display of this country – we all still felt that a seat under the swaying pines at Riverside Park, with the blue encircling hills, would be a far more lasting source of interest. And in New York a Bethel welcome was also loyally claimed from Miss Ami Mueller just arriving with her widowed mother from Europe with the expression, "I am a Bethel exile. Ah, for a Bethel Christmas."

Back in Boston at a dinner given by Prof. and Mrs. Tausig that the Bethel wanderers might meet with some famous men and their no-less interesting wives, the master and mistress of the elegant home were planning how to order their future lives so that they could adopt something akin to the wood-life in Bethel.

Professor Brannon and Professor Williston have been missed and then welcomed back among us, while the loss of the beloved presence which was like a benediction in the death of Dr. Everett, Dean of Harvard Divinity School – is irreplaceable.

The famous ornithologist, curator of the Agassiz Museum, William Brewster of Cambridge selects from his mass of correspondence the *Bethel News* for a weekly perusal.

Other charming Bethel enthusiasts there are—a score, more than worth the knowing! They have left memories of generous, helpful deeds and aids to this village that have endeared them to us all.

What then can we call this article if not, "A Bethel Appreciation?"

Supposing Jacob's dream should become to us, as to him, a reality. Supposing that we, too, should see a ladder of effort reaching from earth to heaven, with helpful angels (some we have perchance "entertained unawares") descending to meet and lift us, ascending to beckon and inspire us, and that, recognizing our possibilities, we should idealize the real, until at life's patient ending we may find, perhaps, that in so doing we have realized our ideals, and our Bethel, so interpreted, may become to us, as to one of the old – the "Gate of Heaven."



Lighted vehicles circle the Bethel Common as part of the Society's New Year's Bethel festivities, which also features a wide variety of entertainment, community bonfire, horse drawn wagon rides, and fireworks at midnight



BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217 or by an e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org

Left: Mabel Hastings Skinner and her husband Ernest Skinner, ca. 1900. They were married in Bethel in 1893. The photo labeled "Ernest Skinner and Mabel Hastings Skinner's wedding photo, 1893" was incorrect as published in the Volume 24, Number 2 issue of The Courier. An alert reader, Richard H. Anderson of Bedford, NH, notified the editor of the error. The label on the back of the photo used for publication clearly read "Ernest and Mabel Skinner," but it is in fact a wedding photo of their daughter Eugenia who married Ernest Shorrock in 1918. Shorrock's World War I uniform is clearly visible upon a study of the photograph and Ernest Skinner would have been over fifty at the time of U.S. entry into World War I in 1917. The editor regrets any confusion this misidentification may have caused.

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